WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Progress of construction work of NH-57

†*142. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of construction work of National Highway No. 57 in Bihar;

(b) the amount spent on the widening and strengthening of the said highway during the last three years;

(c) whether the said project would be completed within the stipulated period; and

(d) if so, Government's plan in this regard, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS: (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) National Highway No. 57 from km 0.00 to km 310.00 in Bihar is proposed to be four laned as part of East-West corridor under Phase-II of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP). The Detailed Project Report is under preparation. The civil works are targeted for award by March 2005 and completed by December 2007, within the stipulated target for completion of four laning of East-West corridor.

No amount has been spent on civil works for four laning of NH-57 in the last three years. However, Rs. 34.79 crore has been spent on improvement and maintenance of NH-57 in the last three years.

Telephone Exchanges in Nagaland

*143. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the present capacity of the telephone exchanges in the State of Nagaland, exchange-wise;

(b) the number of phones presently lying out of order in the cities of the State during the last one year, till date; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN):(a) The present capacity

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.